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**DATE 3/28/2016**

**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Broad Daylight Kidnapping at Eastside Parking Lot**

Date: 3/28/2016

Time: 9:32 a.m.

Location: 7444 Gateway East (Food City Parking lot)

Victim: 55 year-old Blanca McDaniel

Victim's vehicle: Late model Hyundai SUV

Suspect: Hispanic male, 25-30, short dark hair, medium build, last seen wearing a dark colored hoodie, unkempt appearance.

EL PASO, TEXAS: A 55-year old woman was kidnapped as she was entering her vehicle at the Food City parking lot by a male who threatened to stab her. The male offender forced her onto the passenger seat and prevented her from leaving as he drove away in her SUV. An officer driving in the opposite direction noticed the woman hanging outside of the passenger door while screaming for help. The officer made a u-turn but lost sight of the vehicle as it turned into a residential neighborhood. Moments later the officer found the distraught victim standing outside of her SUV at the 7300 block of Kingman. The offender had already abandoned the SUV and fled on foot. An extensive search of the area was conducted by ground units, TEXAS DPS Air Support and an El Paso Police k-9 unit. The victim sustained minor injuries as a result of the physical assault during the incident but declined immediate medical attention.

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> similar incident, across the city since Thursday evening where the victims were accosted as they were in their vehicles or approaching their vehicles at public parking lots. On a 5<sup>th</sup> incident on Saturday the male victim was flagged down by an armed suspect who stole the victim's car. It is unknown if all these crimes are related but the public should be aware of this very recent trend and remain vigilant. Below are some precautionary measures:

Be aware of surroundings at all times. Check around you and around your vehicle.

Do not become pre-occupied with cell phone calls or texts while walking to or at your vehicle.

Have your keys in your hands before walking to your vehicle.

Lock your doors

### **Media Contact:**

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